

Shortage Designations 101

Medically Underserved Areas/Populations (MUA/Ps)
Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs)

January 16, 2013

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Health and Wellness for all Arizonans

azdhs.gov



Shortage Designation Program

Purpose:

- Designations identify areas or populations as having a shortage of or need for dental, mental, and primary health care providers/services

Types of Federal Designations:

- Medically Underserved Area (MUA) and Medically Underserved Population (MUP)
 - Primary Care only
- Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA)
 - Primary Care, Dental, Mental Health

Medically Underserved Areas

- Federal designation that identifies areas as medically underserved based on demographic data
- Area must be rational (similar demographics and care-seeking patterns) – follow pre-approved AZ Rational Service Area plan when possible
- Area is scored on 4 criteria:
 - Percentage of population below poverty level
 - Percentage of population 65 and over
 - Infant mortality rate
 - Primary care physicians per 1,000 population

MUAs, Continued

- Each of the 4 criteria is given a score with a weighted value.
- Sum of scores = **Index of Medical Underservice (IMU)**
 - Scale from 0 to 100
 - 0 = completely underserved, 100 = best served
- Any rational service area with a score equal to or less than **62.0** qualifies for MUA designation

Medically Underserved Populations

- Used when area does not qualify as MUA
- Same data elements and computations as MUA
 - Difference = Use requested group within area as population, rather than total resident civilian population
 - Often use low income (under 200% FPL) population for MUPs

MUA/MUP Designation Process

- Not a competitive process - Any individual or agency may submit a designation request to the Bureau of Health Systems Development (HSD)
- HSD will evaluate the request and assess area
 - If area qualifies - HSD submits formal request to federal Shortage Designation Branch (HRSA)
 - If designated, published online and in federal register
- Complete designation process can take 6 -12 months
- MUA/MUP designations currently are not required to be updated – but that may be changing

Health Professional Shortage Areas

- Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) designation identifies an area or population as having a shortage of providers
 - Primary Care
 - Dental
 - Mental Health
- HPSA designations are used to qualify for state and federal programs aimed at increasing primary care services to underserved areas and populations

Types of HPSAs

- Geographic
- Geographic with high needs (i.e. > 20% poverty)
- Population (i.e. Low Income)
- Facilities –
 - State and Federal Correctional Facilities
 - FQHC's, RHCs, and IHS/Tribal facilities are eligible for an **automatic** HPSA designation

Geographic Area

- A rational service area - in Arizona we use an established Primary Care Area plan
 - Based on demographics and care-seeking patterns
- Population to Provider Ratio Requirement:
 - 3,500:1
 - Counts only MDs and DOs in primary care: family/general practice, internal medicine, and Ob/Gyn (does not include mid-level providers)
 - Does not include obligated providers (NHSC, J-1, federal commissioned officers)

Geographic Area with High Needs

- A rational service area that exhibits one of the following:
 - 20% or more of the population is @ 100 % of the poverty level
 - Infant mortality rate is greater than 20
- Population to Provider Ratio Requirement:
 - 3,000:1

Population – Low Income

- Population = Those below 200% FPL in rational service area
- Providers = just those seeing patients on AHCCCS or a sliding fee scale
- Population to Provider Ratio Requirement:
 - 3,000:1

Excluded from Provider FTE Count

- NHSC Federal Scholarship or Loan Repayment Providers
- Other Federal providers (e.g. Commissioned Officers)
- Physicians who are graduates of foreign schools who are not citizens or lawful permanent residents (including those with J-I or H1-B visas)
- Providers engaged solely in admin, research, or teaching
- Physicians involved exclusively in inpatient or ER care
- Providers full-time in correctional institutions
- Providers suspended under provisions of the Medicaid-Medicare-Anti-Fraud and Abuse Act for a period of 18 months or more

Contiguous Areas

- Must show population of proposed HPSA cannot get services in surrounding service areas
- Can rule out contiguous areas due to:
 - Over-utilization (>2,000:1)
 - Excessive Distance (> 30 minutes)
 - Significant socioeconomic differences
 - Designated as HPSA
 - Inaccessible for other reasons (i.e. reservation – services only available to tribal populations)

HPSA Designation Process

- ADHS Bureau of Health Systems Development gathers data and submits applications to federal HRSA office
- HRSA analyst reviews and approves/rejects for designation
- If designated, published online and in federal register
- HPSA designations last for 3 years, at which time the area must be assessed and submitted for re-designation

HPSA Score

- HRSA assigns each HPSA a score based on data we submit
- Max primary care score = 25 (*Higher score = higher need*)
- All clinics/providers in a HPSA have same HPSA score and identification number
- Primary care HPSA score based on 4 categories:
 - Population to provider ratio
 - % population with incomes below FPL
 - Infant Health Index
 - Travel distance/time to nearest source of accessible care outside of HPSA

Area vs. Facility HPSAs

Area (geo or pop) HPSAs:

- Community-based (must follow AZ Primary Care Area boundaries)
- Must meet specific criteria regarding population-to-provider ratio
- Must eliminate all contiguous areas as potential sources of care
- Must be updated every 3 years

Auto Facility HPSAs:

- Only applies to that facility (and satellites in the case of FQHCs)
- No ratio or contiguous area requirements for designation
- No requirement to update (**scores may be reassessed upon request**)

HPSAs and Workforce Programs

HPSA designation is an eligibility requirement for:

- National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Loan Repayment (tiered awards – see next slide)
- NHSC Scholar Program (currently requires HPSA score of 16)
- Arizona State Loan Repayment
- J-1 Visa Waiver Program

May use area or facility HPSA score when applying for these programs – use whichever is higher.

NHSC Loan Repayment

Initial awards are tiered based on HPSA score:

	2 Years Full-time	4 Years Half-time	2 Years Half-time
Sites with HPSA Score of 14+	Up to \$60,000	Up to \$60,000	Up to \$30,000
Sites with HPSA Score of 0-13	Up to \$40,000	Up to \$40,000	Up to \$20,000

With continued service, NHSC providers may be able to pay off all of their student loans.

Awards are also prioritized based on HPSA score. Applicants from HPSAs with score 14+ will be awarded before those from HPSAs with lower scores.

Rural Health Clinics

- RHCs are eligible for facility HPSA **only** if they provide access to care regardless of ability to pay (including sliding fee scale)
- To obtain facility HPSA, RHCs must submit a *Certificate of Eligibility* form to HRSA (contact Tracy Lenartz for electronic copy of form)

IHS/Tribal Facilities

- Automatic Native American Population HPSA – designation for each facility
- ADHS collaborated with OSD/HRSA to re-score IHS and tribal facilities in 2010/2011
- While scores are fairly recent, please do contact us if your facility has experienced a significant change (i.e. provider turn-over) that could impact your score.

FQHCs and FQHC-LA

- ADHS is currently collaborating with OSD/HRSA to complete a statewide reassessment of facility HPSA scores
- Many have already been completed and seen significant score increases
- Expect to complete all by end of January 2013
- May contact you if we need additional data
- Goal: ensure scoring is consistent and fair across AZ, and competitive nationally for NHSC

Resources

- HSD Interactive web-based mapping tool (“Designation Mapper”) <http://www.azdhs.gov/hsd/designations/index.htm>
- HRSA Shortage Designation Branch
<http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage/>
- HPSA Searchable Database
<http://hpsafind.hrsa.gov/>

HPSA Find Website

<http://hpsafind.hrsa.gov>

Find Shortage Areas: HPSA by State & County - Windows Internet Explorer provided by AZDHS

<http://hpsafind.hrsa.gov/>

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HPSA Eligible for the Medicare Physician Bonus Payment
MUA/P by State & County

To find area HPSAs

ALERT: We have been experiencing some problems with HPSA Find as we upgrade to the most recent census files. The upgrade is currently being tested, and it appears that erroneous census divisions are appearing and being repeated throughout many of the HPSAs. We are working to correct it. In the meantime, if you have questions about the problem, please email dsd@hrsa.gov. Thank you for your patience as we correct the problem; we anticipate the problem will be resolved soon.

Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) are designated by HRSA as having shortages of primary medical care, dental or mental health providers and may be geographic (a county or service area), demographic (low income population) or institutional (comprehensive health center, federally qualified health center or other public facility). Medically Underserved Areas/Populations are areas or populations designated by HRSA as having: too few primary care providers, high infant mortality, high poverty and/or high elderly population. [More about shortage areas](#)

Updated 7/15/2012
[Advanced search by HPSA Type, Score, Metro, and Status](#)

Find a Designated HPSA: Choose a State, County & Discipline

State	Select a State	First, choose a State.
County		Now, choose All Counties, one county or each of the counties you wish to search. To select more than one County, hold down the Ctrl key while making your selection
Discipline	Primary Medical Care Dental Mental Health	Then, choose a discipline. To select more than one discipline, hold down the Ctrl key.
#		Optional: Find a HPSA using its ID #. State and Discipline selections must be provided.

To find facility HPSAs

Search by Address

<http://datawarehouse.hrsa.gov/GeoAdvisor/ShortageDesignationAdvisor.aspx>

HRSA - Find Shortage Areas: HPSA & MUA/P by Address - Version 2.0 - Windows Internet Explorer provided by AZDHS

http://datawarehouse.hrsa.gov/GeoAdvisor/ShortageDesignationAdvisor.aspx

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- [HPSAs Eligible for the Medicare Physician Bonus Payment](#)
- [MUA/P by State & County](#)

Find out if this address is located in a HPSA or MUA/P

Please provide either street address + city + State, or street address + ZIP code.

Street Address (no P.O. Box, etc.):

City:

State:

ZIP Code:

☐ Include geographic (FIPS) codes

Note that this will NOT give you Facility HPSAs – only Area HPSAs

Search by County

<http://hpsafind.hrsa.gov/HPSASearch.aspx>

Find Shortage Areas: HPSA by State & County - Windows Internet Explorer provided by AZDHS

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HPSA & MUA/P by Address

HPSA Eligible for the Medicare Physician Bonus Payment

MUA/P by State & County

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Updated 7/15/2012
[Return to simple search](#)

Find a HPSA: Choose a State, County & Discipline

State	Arizona	First, choose a State.
County	All Counties Apache County Cochise County Coconino County Gila County Graham County	Now, choose All Counties, one county or each of the counties you wish to search. To select more than one County, hold down the Ctrl key while making your selection

Tip: FQHCs are listed only by parent site and county that site is located in

Will give all HPSAs in county, including facilities



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Webinar Recordings

To view/hear webinars on the following topics, visit:

<http://www.azdhs.gov/hsd/resources-training.htm>

(you will enter your name and email address to access the recording)

- Facility HPSAs
- FQHC Look Alikes
- Need for Assistance Worksheet and Other Data Tools
- Designation Mapper Demo
- Workforce Programs
- Sliding Fee Scale Development

Questions or Concerns:

Please feel free to contact me at any time (email is best):

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Any Questions?



Thank You